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ABSTRACT

Research has found that gay men are much more likely to have attempted suicide than heterosexual men, and that their attempts have often occurred during adolescence. The essays in this collection explore the link between sexual orientation and self-injury. The following chapters are included: (1) "Introduction: The State of Knowledge on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth Suicide" (Gary Remafedi); (2) "Gay Male and Lesbian Youth Suicide" (Paul Gibson); (3) "Parasuicide, Gender, and Gender Deviance" (Joseph Harry); (4) "Suicide among Homosexual Adolescents" (Ronald F. C. Hourany); (5) "Violence against Lesbian and Gay Male Youths" (Joyce Hunter); (6) "Suicidal Behavior in Adolescent and Young Adult Gay Men" (Stephen G. Schneider, Norman L. Farberow, and Gabriel N. Kruks); (7) "Risk Factors for Attempted Suicide in Gay and Bisexual Youth" (Gary Remafedi, James A. Farrow, and Robert W. Deisher); (8) "San Diego Suicide Study: Comparison of Gay to Straight Males" (Charles L. Rich, Richard C. Fowler, Deborah Young, and Mary Blenkush); and (9) "Making Schools Safe for Gay and Lesbian Youth: Breaking the Silence in Schools and in Families" (The Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth). The last chapter summarizes the work of the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, an all-volunteer advocacy group that reports annually to the state's governor. The Commission has made specific recommendations to state agencies and the legislature and to schools to help gay and lesbian students. Recommendations for schools include the establishment of policies to protect gay and lesbian students from harassment, violence, and discrimination, as well as training for teachers, counselors, and staff in crisis intervention and violence prevention. School-based support groups for gay and lesbian students are recommended, along with information about gay and lesbian issues in the school libraries and curricula that include gay and lesbian issues. The entire report and an executive summary are included. (SLD)

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